

Snow Call 101:

Your guide to surviving the winter commute

Senior Master Sgt. Bryan Martin
50th Civil Engineer Squadron

During winter weather, one of the most important missions at Schriever is notifying base employees about road conditions and whether the base is open or closed.

Employees here can check several avenues for information: Call the Schriever Snow Call Line at 567-SNOW, check local television stations, tune into a local radio station, or point your Web browser to www.schriever.af.mil and click on "Snow Call Procedures."

Here's the process: When snow and ice conditions develop at Schriever, a team of experts from across the wing recommends a course of action to protect base personnel.

When questionable weather conditions develop, the on-duty 50th Security Forces Squadron flight chief will inspect road conditions on Enoch, Irwin, Curtis and Bradley roads and Highway 94.

The flight chief assesses the local driving conditions and coordinates with key agencies including the law enforcement desks at Peterson Air Force Base, the U.S. Air Force Academy and Fort Carson, as well as the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the City of Colorado Springs and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

If road conditions are hazardous, the flight chief contacts the 50th SFS commander and presents a status brief to the 50th Mission Support Group commander.

Timely communication is the key element when determining road conditions and base reporting procedures, said Col. Merrily Madero, 50th MSG commander.

The entire process must be executed in about an hour to ensure people are informed quickly; safety is the primary consideration throughout the process.

When conditions warrant, the 50th MSG commander will convene a formal teleconference with the commanders from the 50th Operations Group and 50th Network Operations Group. Once the group commanders agree, the 50th MSG commander recommends a course of action to the commander and vice commander.

This decision process is designed to achieve decision from the

wing commander by 4 a.m. so units can get the word out to the base populace before they get on the roads.

When the decision is made, the command post notifies the 50th Civil Engineer Squadron, which activates the Schriever AFB Snow and Ice Control Plan to get the roads plowed and treated. Operations crews are notified as well as all support elements on the base. 50th OG and 50th NOG ensure the next shift of space operations crews do not travel until it is safe.

The command post updates the base snow line, 567-SNOW (7669) and the Schriever intranet and informs 50th SW Public Affairs of the situation.

Public Affairs provides information to local radio and television stations.

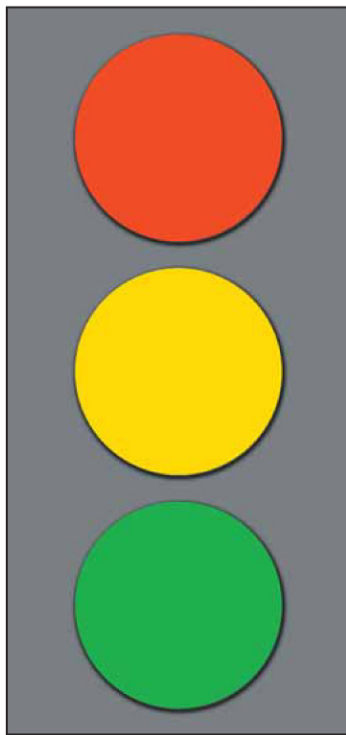
This same process is used if threatening snow and ice conditions develop during the normal duty day, on holidays or during the weekend. The objective is to provide timely information to ensure safe travel for Schriever employees.

What if I can't get out of my driveway?

People in some neighborhoods may have piles of snow on the roads, even though roads near Schriever are clear. Use operational risk management to determine whether you believe it's safe to drive.

If you feel you cannot reach Schriever safely, contact your chain of command and inform them of the inclement conditions in your neighborhood.

What do all these colors mean?



Road Condition Black

Extremely hazardous conditions exist on roadways. Only emergency vehicles will operate on base roads.

Road Condition Red

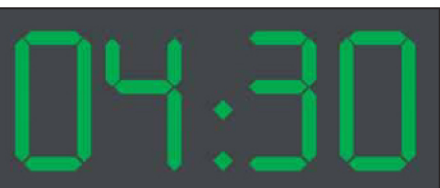
Indicates conditions of extremely limited visibility or icy roads with deep snow. Vehicle movement will be limited to mission-essential movement only. All vehicle operators must keep their headlights on and use extreme caution while driving.

Road Condition Yellow

Indicates conditions of limited visibility (less than 300 feet) or slick or snow-covered roads. Conditions require increased awareness by vehicle operators. Vehicle headlights will be turned on, and all patrols must take necessary driving precautions.

Road Condition Green

Roads are clear; no unusual conditions to vehicle operations exist. However, drivers should still exercise caution, as winter weather can make roads treacherous with little warning.



When is my reporting time?

Delayed Reporting

Non-mission essential and non-emergency essential personnel report to Schriever later than their normal reporting time. This delay, typically two hours, allows time for road conditions to improve and for snow removal operations to be conducted as necessary.

Plan to arrive no earlier than 30 minutes before the specified delayed reporting time to minimize interference with snow-removal operations. For example, if Schriever is on a two-hour delay, plan to arrive at least an hour and a half after your normal reporting time.

Closed

Schriever Air Force Base is closed. Military personnel and Department of Defense civilians are not permitted to come or go. Anyone coming on base while it is closed will not be allowed to leave. Mission-essential personnel will remain in place until the base is reopened and their replacements arrive.

Early Release

Non-mission essential personnel and non-emergency personnel must depart their duty stations before the end of the normal duty day. Phased release of personnel normally occurs at 30-minute intervals to reduce the congestion of traffic departing Schriever.

Mission Essential Only

Only mission-essential and emergency personnel should report for duty. Additionally, mission-essential and emergency personnel on Schriever at the time the base is closed must remain on Schriever until the situation clears or replacements arrive.

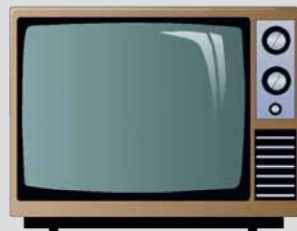
Where can I find Snow Call info?

Schriever Snow Call Line

Call the Schriever Snow Call Line at 567-SNOW (7669). Note that due to the potential for a large volume of calls, the snow call line may be busy. Call back periodically, or check TV stations or other sources listed to get the information.

Radio

FM 95.1 – KATC
FM 96.9 – KCCY
FM 99.9 – KVVU
FM 101.9 – KGDQ (En Español)
AM 740 – KVOR



Television

Channel 5/30 – KOAA
Channel 11 – KKTU
Channel 13 – KRDO

World Wide Web

www.schriever.af.mil/snowcallprocedures.asp
www.flashnews.net/rocky.html